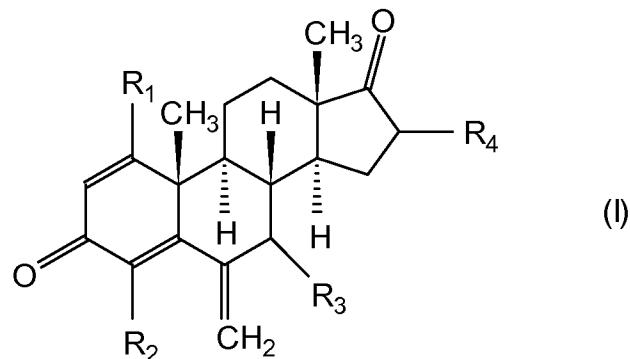


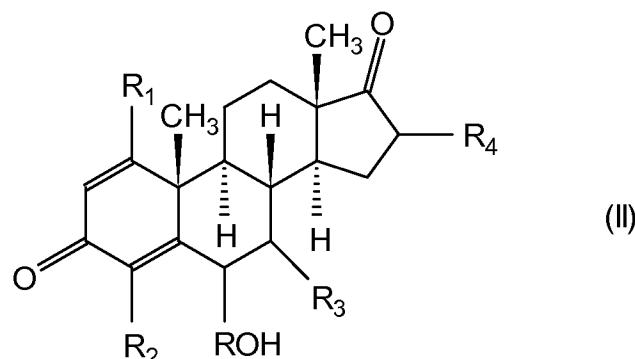
Amendments to the Claims

1. (Original) A method for preparing a compound of formula (I)

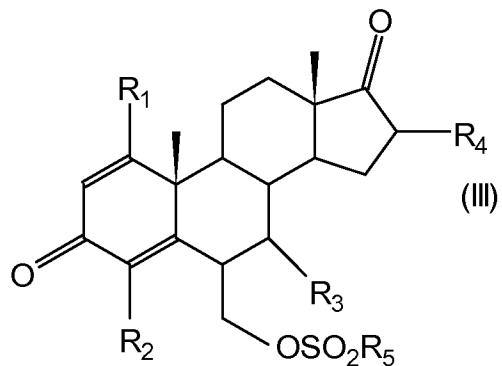


wherein each of R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , independently, is hydrogen, halogen or C₁-C₆ alkyl, the method comprising:

reacting a compound of formula (II)



wherein R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄ are as defined above and R is alkylene, with a deprotonating agent and a compound of the formula R₅SO₂X wherein R₅ is C₁-C₅ alkyl and X is halogen so as to obtain a compound of formula (III)



wherein R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_5 are as defined above; and
reacting the compound of formula (III) with a base.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:

wherein each of R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 is hydrogen.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:

R is methylene.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:

the deprotonating agent is an amine.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:

the deprotonating agent is a tertiary amine.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:

the deprotonating agent is a trialkyl amine.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:

R_5 is methyl.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:

R_5 is methyl and X is chlorine.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:
wherein each of R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄ is hydrogen,
R is methylene,
the deprotonating agent is a trialkyl amine,
R₅ is methyl, and
X is chlorine.

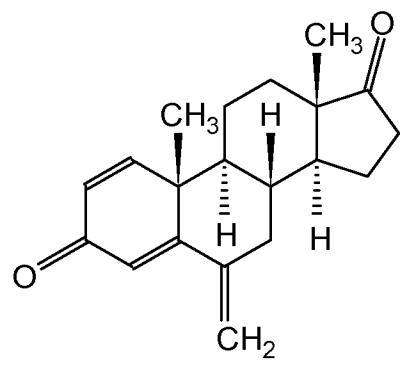
10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:
the base is an alkali metal hydroxide.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:
the base is potassium hydroxide.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:
the compound of formula (III) is reacted with the base in a solvent.

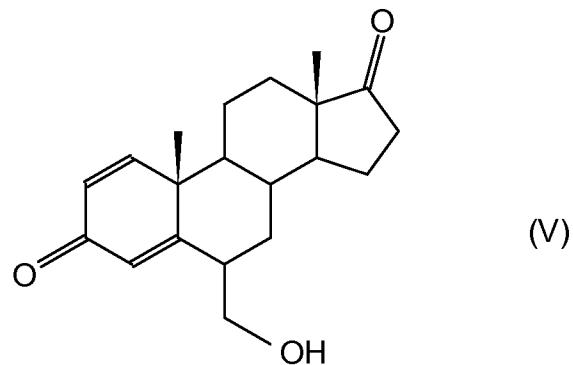
13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:
the solvent is an alkanol.

14. (Original) A method for preparing a compound of formula



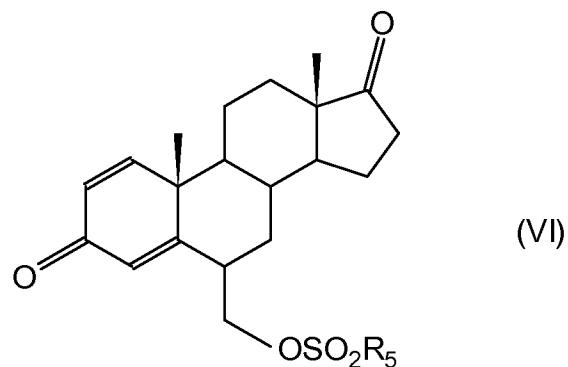
the method comprising:

reacting a compound of formula (V)



(V)

with a deprotonating agent and a compound of the formula R_5SO_2X wherein R_5 is C₁-C₅ alkyl and X is halogen so as to obtain a compound of formula (VI)



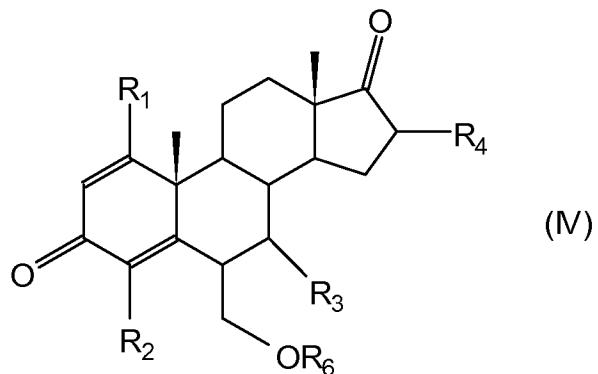
(VI)

and then reacting the compound of formula (VI) with a base in a solvent.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein:
R₅ is methyl and X is chlorine.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein:
the base is an alkali metal hydroxide, and
the solvent is an alkanol.

17. (Withdrawn) A compound of the formula (IV):



wherein each of R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, independently, is hydrogen, halogen or C₁-C₆ alkyl, and R₆ is a substituent other than hydrogen.

18. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 17 wherein each of R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄ is hydrogen.

19. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 17 wherein R₆ is methyl.

20. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 17 wherein each of R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄ is hydrogen, and R₆ is SO₂R₅ wherein R₅ is C₁-C₅ alkyl.

21. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 19 wherein R₅ is methyl.